

Pro bono projects Birmingham

ECRE Research and Case Summary Project

The European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL) is a unique online database which provides free access to key asylum and refugee case law from 17 European Union Member States as well as the European Courts. Without the database States, practitioners and the judiciary are unaware of potentially better practices, how provisions are being interpreted and with what instruments. The database is maintained by the European Council for Refugees and Exiles ('ECRE'). Student volunteers who are fluent in English and are native/fluent speakers of one or more of the following languages (German, French, Czech, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Slovenian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish) support the ECRE by completing and proof reading case summaries which are published on the database and contributing to the EDAL blog, which provides legal commentary on recent asylum jurisprudence as well as asylum legislation.

Course eligibility: LPC and BPTC

Human Rights Unit (HRU)

HRU educates students on the importance of human rights laws by running a series of talks from external speakers. HRU publish articles on human rights issues and students get practical experience of legal research by assisting charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Students can also join BPP University's Amnesty group.

Project viability subject to student interest.

Course eligibility: all*

LEASE Case Summaries

This is a joint-working project with the Leasehold Advisory Service, LEASE, where students summarise cases from the Residential Property Tribunal which are then made available to the public on the LEASE website.

Course eligibility: all*

Legal Translation Service (LTS)

The LTS aims to provide legal advice centres and not for profit organisations with free interpretation and translation, both in writing and in person, by involving students with native or fluent foreign language abilities. Students develop good listening and client skills and are exposed to varied real life legal issues.

Course eligibility: all*

Personal Support Unit

The Personal Support Unit is a charity that gives practical and emotional support to unrepresented litigants at court. Students meet unrepresented litigants to talk through their cases informally and to accompany them around the courts and into hearings.

Course eligibility: GDL, LPC and BPTC

Research Project

This involves students working in groups to research areas of law relevant to the pro bono sector including all areas of social welfare law and environmental law. Students will research and write articles to be published on BPP University Law School Pro Bono Centre social media. Their work will be supervised by a qualified lawyer and may be used as the basis of future Streetlaw presentations.

Course eligibility: all*

Shadowing

Students attend the Birmingham Library with qualified solicitors at evening clinics aimed at improving access to justice for the local community. Students generally observe the interviews and take notes but may be required to interview, research areas of law and prepare letters of advice on occasion.

Course eligibility: BPTC, LPC, sometimes GDL and LLB

Streetlaw

Streetlaw promotes understanding about legal rights and responsibilities to individuals who would not otherwise have access to legal knowledge or education. Streetlaw projects benefit both the wider community and law students, who learn valuable legal and professional skills.

Law students research and deliver interactive presentations on the law to a range of community groups including school children, youth groups, young entrepreneurs, prisoners, ex-offenders, homeless shelters and charities.

Course eligibility: all*

Streetlaw - Mock Trials

Students visit local schools and run mock trial workshops, giving young people an introduction to the criminal justice system and the court process.

Project viability subject to student and school interest.

Course eligibility: all*

Tribunal Services

From time to time, student volunteers will have the opportunity to support a client in a moral and administrative capacity at Midlands West Employment Tribunal in Birmingham. Students may assist clients in the administrative preparation of their case and attend hearings to take notes. Tribunal Services is a project that enables students to develop a number of career-ready skills and gain first-hand experience of the Tribunal process.

Course eligibility: all*

For more information

✉ probono@bpp.com

🌐 bpp.com/bpp-university/pro-bono

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All information is correct at time of print. *LLB students must generally be Level 5 before taking part in any pro bono project, although they can undertake training in the first term.



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